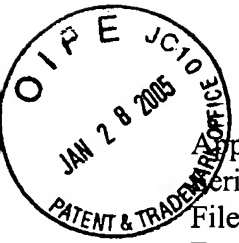


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Attorney Docket No. 23681-013 DIV



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Shariar Motakef et al.
Serial No.: 10/623,877
Filed: July 21, 2003
For: SUBSTANTIALLY-UNIFORM-TEMPERATURE ANNEALING
Examiner: J. Pelham
Art Unit: 3742

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED AUGUST 31, 2004

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated August 31, 2004, please amend the application as follows.

A List of Claims begins on Page 2 of this response.

Remarks begin on Page 5 of this response.